

DESERET EVENING NEWS

Organ of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

PUBLISHED EVERY EVENING.

(SUNDAY EXCEPTED.)

Corner of South Temple and East Temple Streets, Salt Lake City, Utah.

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SUBSCRIPTION PRICES:

One Year	\$2.00
Six Months	\$1.25
Three Months	.75
One Month	.25
Saturday edition, per year	2.00
Single copy	.05

NEW YORK OFFICE:

In charge of E. F. Cummings, Manager Foreign Advertising, from our Home Office, 117 Park Ave., New York.

SAN FRANCISCO OFFICE:

In charge of F. J. Cooper, 25 Geary St.

Correspondence and other reading matter for publication should be addressed to the Editor.

Address all business communications to THE DESERET NEWS, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Entered at the Post Office of Salt Lake City as second class matter, October 12, 1879.

SALT LAKE CITY, JULY 22, 1903.

VOTING RIGHTS OF WOMEN.

The annexed letter has been received from a town in southern Utah, dated July 20, 1903, and signed by several ladies:

Editor Deseret News:

"Will you kindly enlighten a few benighted women as to their rights? Of more properly speaking, if they have any rights at all? We ourselves are a little bit muddled on this subject just now, as, ever since the franchise was given to all, we have labored under the impression that we, as well as the 'sterner' sex, had a right to vote, and, in fact, have done so before. Now, we find there is a mistake somewhere, as, at a school election held in this place recently, some of our wisecracks decreed that the ladies had no right to vote, and that none but taxpayers could do so."

"Now, Mr. Editor, what we want to know is this: Can a woman, who is a native-born citizen, and wife of a taxpayer, vote for a new school building, or building site? Please answer through the columns of the Deseret News, as there are quite a number here who would like to know their status."

Every registered voter, male or female, is entitled under the laws of Utah to vote at a school election as well as at other elections, unless it be one for the raising of money by bonds or by taxation. Taxpayers only may vote on such a question. Registered voters of either sex may vote for the election of school trustees, and for the selection of a site for a schoolhouse, but only those who have paid a property tax for the year next preceding can vote for the raising of funds in the school district.

This makes no discrimination against women voters. The ladies should understand that. The principle is undoubtedly correct, that those who pay taxes should vote as to the levy and the disposal of taxes. If a registered woman voter has paid a property tax for the year next preceding the election for a school tax, she can vote at that election. A male registered voter who has not done so cannot vote at such an election. Thus both sexes are on common ground as to this and all other elections in Utah.

This is in accord with our State Constitution, which declares that: "Both male and female citizens of this State shall enjoy equally all civil, political and religious rights and privileges." But it also provides that: "Except in elections levying a special tax or creating indebtedness, no property qualification shall be required for any person to vote or hold office."

The building of a school house costs money. The funds have to be raised by bonds or by taxation. Only taxpayers can legally vote on the question. It doesn't matter whether they are male or female, or whose wife or husband a citizen may be, the voter must be a taxpayer to be qualified to vote on a money question. That is all there is of it. And the ladies are on a perfect equality with the gentlemen in this as well as all other political respects.

Another question propounded by the same correspondents is:

"When and where was the Primary Association first organized?"

The first Primary association was organized at Farmington, Davis county, with Aurelia S. Rogers as President. This was followed soon after by an association in Elevenmile, Salt Lake City, with Louise B. Felt as President. A number of associations were organized in different wards from time to time. The organization of the Primary association as an auxiliary of the Church was effected June 19, 1880, in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, when Sister Louise B. Felt was set apart as President. Since then Primary associations have been formed in all the wards and stakes of the Church, and they have become of great importance and much benefit to the little children of the Latter-day Saints.

GREAT AUTHORITIES INDEED.

One of Salt Lake's prominent sectarian preachers is reported to have recommended on Sunday last to visiting strangers, two works on "Mormonism" as reliable and authentic. One of them is a novel, confessedly a work of fiction, in which some caricatures of "Mormon" celebrities and highly colored exaggerations and distortions of "Mormon" history are introduced, to give to the reader a false impression. The other is a singular mixture of truth and error, fact and falsehood, so presented as to impart an appearance of fairness in giving "both sides," but in effect to poison the mind of the reader against "Mormonism" and increase the prejudice already existing. The preacher might as well have recommended Jules Verne's visit to the Moon as an authentic work on astronomy, or Gulliver's travels as a reliable description of peculiar people and countries. Strange, is it not, that professed disciples of Christ do not suggest to inquirers some real "Mormon" works for information about "Mormonism"? Suppose that instead of advising a non-believer to read the New Testament to learn about the Savior of the world, they were to recommend a careful study of the works of Renan or Voltaire!

The efforts of professional ministers to deter people from learning what "Mormonism" is from its authorized exponents, and advise them to draw their information (?) from novelists, romancers, and writers interested in maligning and defaming the "Mormons," prove the character of those ministers, and exhibit them before the heavens as charlatans and impostors, who do the "livery of heaven" in which to serve the devil.

THE COMET.

As the readers of the "News" are aware, a comet is now attracting the attention of astronomers. It can be detected in the evening sky, being somewhat brighter than a star of the fourth magnitude, and having the appearance of a hazy ball of light, instead of a sharply defined luminary, as the fixed stars have. The structure of the tail changes from night to night, being highly attenuated matter which is lost in space, and constantly replaced from the body of the comet.

The astronomers tell us where to look for this luminous body. On the evening of the 22nd the comet will be nearly between Alpha Draconis and the pole star, about 2 degrees from the former. On the 23rd it will be in the Big Dipper, a little above the star Delin, at the junction of the bowl and handle. On the 24th it will be near the star Gamma.

The time is past when the appearance of a comet caused a panic among the children of men. For these wanderers in space, though not satisfactorily accounted for, are known to be celestial bodies, obeying certain laws, as the sun, the planets, and the stars. They go and come in their orbits, as intended by the great Architect of the universe. They are no longer regarded as harbingers of evil, though it can scarcely be doubted that they have some influence over planets with which they come in contact. If it is true that they sometimes sweep the planets with their tails, they must have some influence upon them, magnetic, electric, or what not. If it is true that they at times actually touch celestial bodies as they pass, is it not possible that they also convey forms of life, of the lowest order, from one part of the universe to another, acting as transports in the great ocean of space? At any rate, they do not create fear among the terrestrial spectators any longer. And yet, were we living in a less enlightened age, we would probably point to the numerous disasters that have occurred this year, and then look upon the comet as a sign preceding the visit of wrath.

ENDED HIS LIFE.

One of the actors in the Carthage tragedy, after many years, ends his life in California.

The San Jose Mercury and Herald of July 19 contains the details of the suicide of one Major Boring, a short time ago. It appears that the gentleman had been missing for some time, and that his dead body finally was found in a park. He had taken his own life by firing a pistol into his head, but he had left no letter indicating any reason for the rash act. And it is all the more inexplicable, since he was a man who had filled a number of honorable positions in the community where he lived, and had many friends, being a member in good standing of several fraternal organizations.

The case will be of some interest to our readers, because Major Boring, according to a biographical sketch furnished about a year ago, by himself, to a reporter, was one of the militia that was called out during the rising of the mob in Illinois against the Latter-day Saints, at the time of the martyrdom of the Prophet Joseph and his brother Hyrum, the Patriarch. Mr. Boring is quoted as follows:

"I was quite a lad when my father moved to Rushville, Schuyler county, Ill., where in after years I met and formed a strong friendship for one with whom was one of the High Priests, kept by a traveling teacher. At twenty, while still in school, I was called out as a militiaman to go to the 'Mormon' war. Without entering into details of that unfortunate uprising I may say that I saw the bodies of Joseph and Hyrum Smith just as they lay after being slain by the mob."

"That settled the Mormon difficulty, but I was sorely settled myself before the war broke out with Mexico, and I enlisted as a cavalryman in the war against Mexico, and served all through the campaign under General Taylor and only returned to more peaceful pursuits when the United States troops were withdrawn from Mexico soil."

What part the man who ended his life in a lonely spot in the park, took in the fearful tragedy at Carthage does not appear from this quotation. But it would be interesting to trace, if that were possible, the life and death of all who took any part whatever in that drama. No doubt, that would be a great object lesson to the world.

THE WAR DANGER.

The dispatches from eastern Asia again have a bellicose tone. It is believed in Peking, that Russia is willing to fight, if Japan can be isolated, so that no other power comes to her aid. Russians think that Japan would be an easy mark, and they are said to be anxious to have the conflict, so as to settle the relative positions of the two countries in the Orient.

The probability is that the Russian promises as to the opening of certain ports, are about as real and as valuable as the agreement to evacuate Manchuria. For three centuries she has steadily forced her way eastward, always fighting native hordes, but avoiding conflict with the great powers. She has acquired the greater portion of Siberia, Amur, Manchuria, the Kirghis steppe, and other territory. She now aims at the absorption of more Chinese territory, and Korea, and unless she is strongly opposed, she will certainly achieve that purpose, with or without war with Japan.

It is significant that the Japanese feel confident of their ability to hold their own against the Russian empire. This fact must be counted on, when the chances for or against war are weighed. Were the Japanese fully convinced of

their inferiority in point of strength, they would not provoke hostility, but go far to avoid a clash. But they hold a different view. A Yokohama paper, quoted in Public Opinion, points out that while Russia has in far eastern waters a fleet of 22 vessels with a total tonnage of 156,249, Japan has thirty vessels with a tonnage aggregating over 295,000. This comparison includes only battleships and armored cruisers.

But granting that Russia was the victor in the first naval battle which is taken for granted as a beginning of the war, the Yokohama paper insists that Russia would find insuperable obstacles in the way of invasion of Japan. The invader would be opposed by a well trained and courageous army of 250,000 men, and to meet them successfully the paper asserts that a Russian force of half a million would be needed. Estimating that five or six hundred ships would be required to transport such an army with its equipment, the Japanese writer concludes that an invasion would be quite impossible. Even assuming that it were accomplished, the paper assures its imaginary antagonist that a campaign of stupendous difficulties would remain to be brought to a successful conclusion.

In the event of Japanese victory in the preliminary naval engagement, the paper further thinks that Japan would show herself able to drive Russia out of Manchuria and back from Port Arthur and Dairen. Furthermore, according to the writer quoted, Russia would be greatly handicapped by the necessity of conducting a war so far from home, while Japan would benefit in a corresponding degree by operating near home.

With this conviction strong, the Japs may lose their temper any day, and raise the cry, "On to Moukden!" as the French once shouted, "On to Berlin!" There is the real danger of war in Asia. Russia would like to complete her conquest without war, but Japan may decide not to permit that.

How many clues does it take to catch a murderer?

Just now many speculators are taking the water cure.

A comet with two tails causes much more comment than a cat of nine tails.

A man removed from office feels ecstatic while his successor feels ecstatic.

It will be rather strange if Ohio does not present a candidate for St. Peter's chair.

Those who are keeping their ears close to the ticker can hear stocks drop at any time.

The peace of the West requires that the cattlemen be divided from the sheepmen.

So much water is being let out of stocks that Wall Street looks like an Erie canal.

St. Louis has a labor leader who is opposed to strikes. What manner of man is this?

There are many remedies for lynching but like the perpetual motion machines they don't work.

What's the matter with Mr. Carnegie? Has he become poor or is he no longer afraid of dying rich?

Wyoming is not so populous as Kentucky, but Bighorn county is a worthy rival of Breathitt county.

A local woman has brought two suits against her husband. Yet they do not seem suited to each other.

George J. Gould says he intends to help all he can in developing Baltimore. But he does not mean to be an oyster.

Mr. Schwab has gone to Philadelphia to rest. There is more resting done there than in any other part of the country.

It is said to be very bad form for children to say "Sir" and "Ma'am." Today "good form" seems to be very like what the old school called "bad manners."

It seems somewhat incongruous for Kansas to be crying aloud for harvest hands to garner her great crops and at the same time sending out petitions soliciting aid for the food sufferers.

Japan, it is said, is not satisfied with Russia's assurances to the United States regarding Manchuria. Japan, unconscious of the fact now, may have to be satisfied with them.

The Brooklyn Eagle comes out squarely in favor of the free distribution of ice by the city for the benefit of the babies of the tenement districts. Someone is bound to throw cold water on the scheme.

"A Georgia editor has discovered an author who has a 'trunk full of stories and two barrels of poems.' The only difficulty is to ascertain what poetry brings by the barrel now," says the Atlanta Constitution. It is more important to know what poetry brings a 'barrel'."

A New York dispatch says that the knee pants workers "have inaugurated their annual strike." These strikers have become established things and come around as regularly as the seasons. They seem to be a necessity to those who indulge in the like candy to children and tea to old ladies.

Society in Kokomo, the very center of literary culture in Indiana, has been entertaining a celebrated author who turns out not to be the celebrity she represented herself to be. The fact was revealed by a New York visitor and was not detected by the keen literary instinct of the Kokomites.

The chairman of the North Borneo company, Mr. Marten, M. P., says that the several small islands recently taken possession of by the United States were derelict, and have not been referred to in any treaty with any power. Then by seizing them Uncle Sam cannot be charged with dereliction of duty.

THE RIDE OF GENERAL MILLS.

Boston Post.

Lieut. Gen. Mills' horseback ride from Fort Rill to Fort Reno, 90 miles in 5 hours and 10 minutes, is a performance that commands admiration. In spite of the color which is given it in the news dispatches, it should not be regarded as a spectacular tour de force.

It was done in the performance of his official duty, and while Gen. Mills undoubtedly enjoyed the ride, it is also unquestionable that he did not do it with the purpose of making an exhibition of himself.

Brooklyn Eagle.

The strenuous life in the White House stimulates Gen. Mills to hard riding, and sends the Kearsarge across the Atlantic at top-notch speed. Celerity is contagious. Energy is infectious. Expedition is catching.

Worcester Telegram.

Gen. Mills rode horseback 90 miles in nine hours and felt perfectly fresh when his ride was finished. He will retire Aug. 8 of this year, when he will be 64 years old. He is a Massachusetts man, having been born in Westminister. From the time he enlisted in 1841 up to the present, he has seen a deal of fighting and service. Forty-two years is a long time to stick to one occupation, but in the particular line he chose Mills has shown exceptional ability, and although he is not a West Point man, he succeeded by daring, skill and courage in rising to the head of the army.

Washington Star.

Gen. Mills' long horseback ride is proof of his physical vigor, and the story will be read with very general interest. It was a race against age, and the general won handsomely. At 64 and on the eve of retirement he is a young man yet, and who has years before him. Will the winding of this ride suggest to the politicians the advisability of entering him for another kind of race? Would he show the qualities which suggest himself as the result of this ride, and have no effect on the day fixed for Gen. Mills' retirement from the army.

New York World.

If Gen. Mills, and Gen. Young and a few other veterans after him could be retired at 70, say, reducing by 5 years the period which the amateurs, Gen. Wood and Gen. Johnston will, under the proposed program of promotion, spend at the head of the army, the country would applaud. But as such a reasonable extension of the active period can only be made by the same commander-in-chief who is reported to be planning Gen. Wood's elevation at the expense of experienced men, Gen. Mills' plucky feat was doubtless performed in vain.

Milwaukee Wisconsin.

Gen. Mills' 90 mile dash the other day showed that he is still in the prime of physical vigor; but the age-limit law provides for retirement, irrespective of physical condition at 64, and Gen. Mills will reach the age of 64 on the 6th of next month. Von Moltke planned and won the war with France at the age of 76. Dandolo, the great doge of Venice, was when he defeated the Pisans. He was 92 when he headed his expedition against the Turks, and 96 when after a long siege of Constantinople, he took the place by storm and established the empire of the Latins. Germany is an empire and Venice was a republic. The red-tape system of doing army business in the United States is not a necessary outgrowth of our form of government.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

Among the interesting features of the list of contents of Harper's Bazar for August, are the following: "Street Arabs in London," Rebecca A. Insley; "On a Warwickshire Farm," Caroline Benedict Burdett; "A Dinner with King Alfonso," G. O.; "One Result of the Martinique Disaster," Dorothy Canfield; "The Ultimate Moment," a novel, chapter seven, William R. Ligon; "The Memoirs of a Baby," V. Josephine Daskam; "A Garden Party," Josephine Grenier; "A Summer Millinery," A. A. Moore; "New Automobile Draperies," illustrated by Labrosse; "A Sterling," Household Hints from Overseas; "Christine Terhune Herriek, and Receipts,"—Harper Bros., New York.

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Arrive Salt Lake: No. 1 1:30 p.m. No. 3 3:45 p.m. No. 5 5:45 p.m. No. 7 7:45 p.m. No. 9 9:30 p.m. No. 11 11:30 p.m.

*Sunday's last train leaves Saltair at 9:30 p. m.

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